GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2592
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
AIDS PATIENTS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the WHO UNAIDS report according to which India has the highest number of AIDS patients in the world after South Africa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government is aware that out of 30 lakh AIDS patients only 7.30 lakh AIDS patients have access to proper AIDS treatment (A.R.T.);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Government for making `Anti Retro-Viral` available in sufficient quantity ;and

(f) the time by which ` Anti Retro-Viral ` is likely tobe made available in the market in sufficient quantity ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government is aware about the WHO UNAIDS report released from time to time. One such report was released by UNAIDS in 2004. This report did mention the estimated number of HIV infections in India in 2004 is the second highest after South Africa. The estimated number of HIV infections in India is 5.134 million as compared to South Africa as 5.3 million HIV infections.

(c) & (d): It is not correct that there are 30 lakh AIDS patients in the country and only 7.3 lakh AIDS patients have access to provide AIDS treatment.

In India, we have an estimated 5.134 million HIV infected persons and it is also estimated that approximately 500,000 will be having AIDS. Currently 110,856 AIDS cases are reported and 30,000 patients are receiving ART out of which 10,000 are in the public sector.

(e) & (f): The Government of India started free ART treatment on 1st April, 2004 at eight (8) ART Centres in 6 high prevalence states and NCT of Delhi. It has been scaled up to 25 centres in 13 states of the country.

It is planned to make ART available at 100 centres by end 2005 and 188 centres by end 2007. By the end of year 2005, it is proposed to have at least one ART centre in each state. It is planned to provide ART to 180,000 patients by end of July 2010.

The Anti-retoriral drugs are available in sufficient quantity in the market.